

it?) all cases of uterine myomata in patients under forty years of age; in retroflexed and antelexed uterus; in epilepsy; in hysterio epilepsy; in every case of insanity in the female.!!

Here, as you will perceive, I have said nothing of those considerable tumours of the ovary or tubes—cystic, fibrocystic or malignant, which, all agree, may demand removal.

Is it to be wondered at that this operation should be resorted to with a frequency which is alarming? Ophorectomy is to-day epidemic in many places on the other and on this side of the Atlantic. Occasionally an authority, such as Thomas More Madden, in Europe, writes that the operation of laparotomy is performed "too frequently" and in unsuitable cases; and Emmet, on this side, stems the tide somewhat by saying that for a year he had seen but one case of disease of the tubes, where the operation might be justifiable, that the patient refused to be operated upon, and got well in a few months. Yet every one knows Emmet's unsurpassed field of clinical observation. In one hospital in Liverpool, says Dr. Carter, no less than one hundred and eleven women had been deprived of one or both ovaries during the year 1885, said to be about one-third of all the patients admitted. This frequency continued in 1886, and led to a commission of enquiry. Canada has many ophorectomists and salpingotomists. The *Upper Canada Lancet* has denounced the epidemic, and at our own Medico-Chirurgical society ovaries are sometimes fished up from the depths of the pocket,—sometimes the vest pocket—and sometimes it has happened that so able a pathologist as Professor William Osler has, after close inspection, declared he found nothing abnormal in them.

The fashion, doubtless, will soon change; diagnosis of affections of the appendages will, in the meantime, have been much advanced; and the question of operation will have been settled in accordance with those general principles, which should guide all prudent and honorable men in its performance or rejection.

This question has a moral and a social as well as a medical aspect; but I do not arrogate to myself any preparedness not possessed by others. I may say, however, I have more than once prevented the operation, and I have been afterwards thanked for it, and another then unborn generation has been advantaged by it. I admit there are cases where a diseased condition of the ovaries or tubes

demands surgical interference; but those are not cases where every objective sign is absent, and where the symptoms detailed by a hysterical woman are the only guide.

A CLINICAL LECTURE

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ANEMIA.

The term "Anemia" is often very loosely applied; generally speaking it refers to three classes of cases, viz.: (1) Where the blood is deficient in quantity; (2) where it presents certain abnormal qualities; (3) where, owing to a weak heart, the arteries are not properly filled. Very often in cases we find a combination of the whole three. The principal alteration in the quality of the blood depends upon a deficiency or diminution in the number of the red corpuscles. In such cases the salts are in excess, as well as the proportion of water, and the serum, as a result, is of a low specific gravity. The fibrin is generally in excess, and there is a tendency for the blood to coagulate in the veins. Chlorosis is a form of anemia—commonly known as green sickness, from a greenish tint of the skin—met with in young girls who are sufferers from some menstrual derangement. The causes which produce this disease are numerous, but among the principal are the following: Excessive loss of blood at one time, or repeated small losses, as, for instance, losses from epistaxis or nose bleeding, or from hæmorrhoid or piles; constant sedentary employment, especially if this employment is carried on under unfavorable hygienic conditions, as, for instance, in a confined atmosphere, and where the sunlight is deficient, mal-assimilation of food, and where animal food is eaten rarely. Anemia is also met with in women, who are nursing strong and vigorous children, and who prolong lactation beyond the time, which is usual to devote to this function. The disease is met with more frequently in women than in men, and between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five years. The reason of this is the great demands made about the periods of puberty, upon the developing power of the individual. Anemia gives rise to a great many